



NORTH CAROLINA Department of Transportation



School Transportation Improvements – Legislative Update

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Re-Cap

All transportation improvements required for a new school, an expanding or relocating school shall be reimbursed by NCDOT on state maintained roadways, and by the respective municipality on municipal maintained roadways.

School may hire a prequalified engineer instead of a NCDOT and/or municipal review.

Definition of a School

- Covers ALL schools grades K-12th
 - ✎ Satisfy the Compulsory Attendance law
 - ✎ School types include:
 - Public
 - Private
 - Charter
- Pre-school and Post twelve grade educational facilities are not eligible for reimbursement.



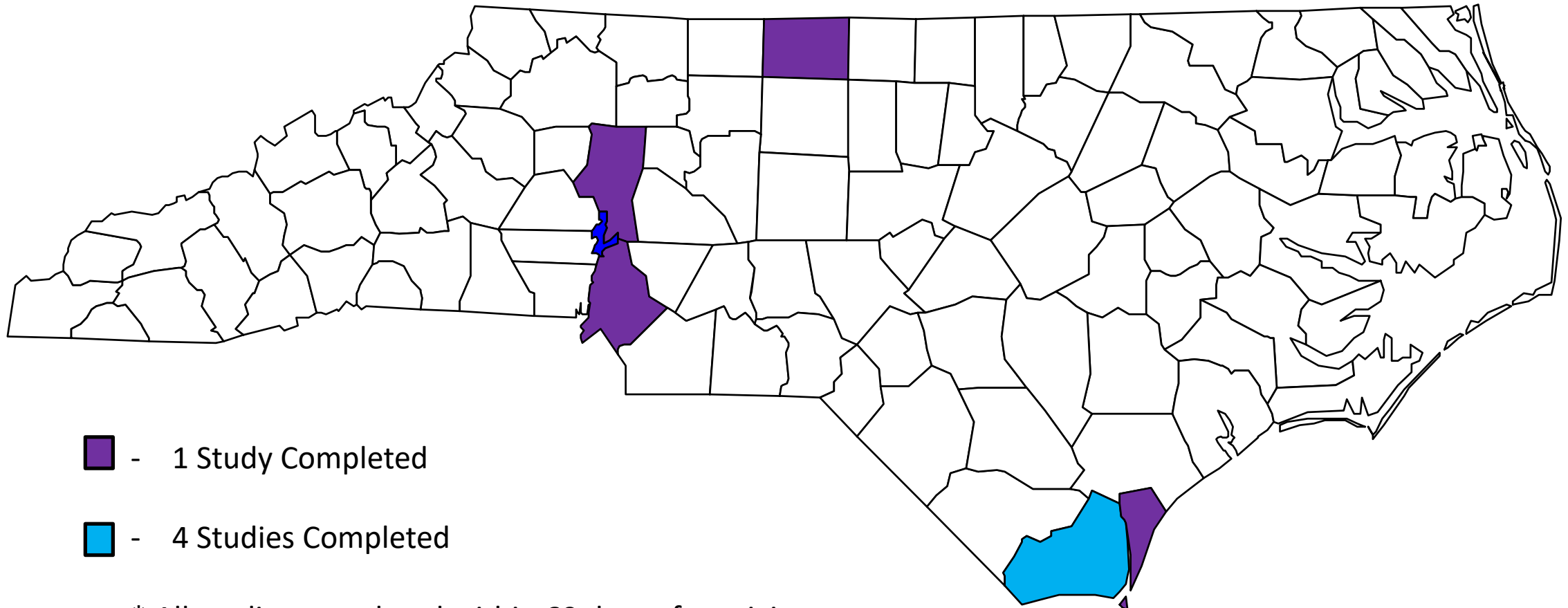
Received Requests

Year	TIA Tracker	MSTA Tracker/Requests
2016	0	N/A
2017	15	N/A
2018	135	23
2019	9	20

TIA – Traffic Impact Analysis (study)

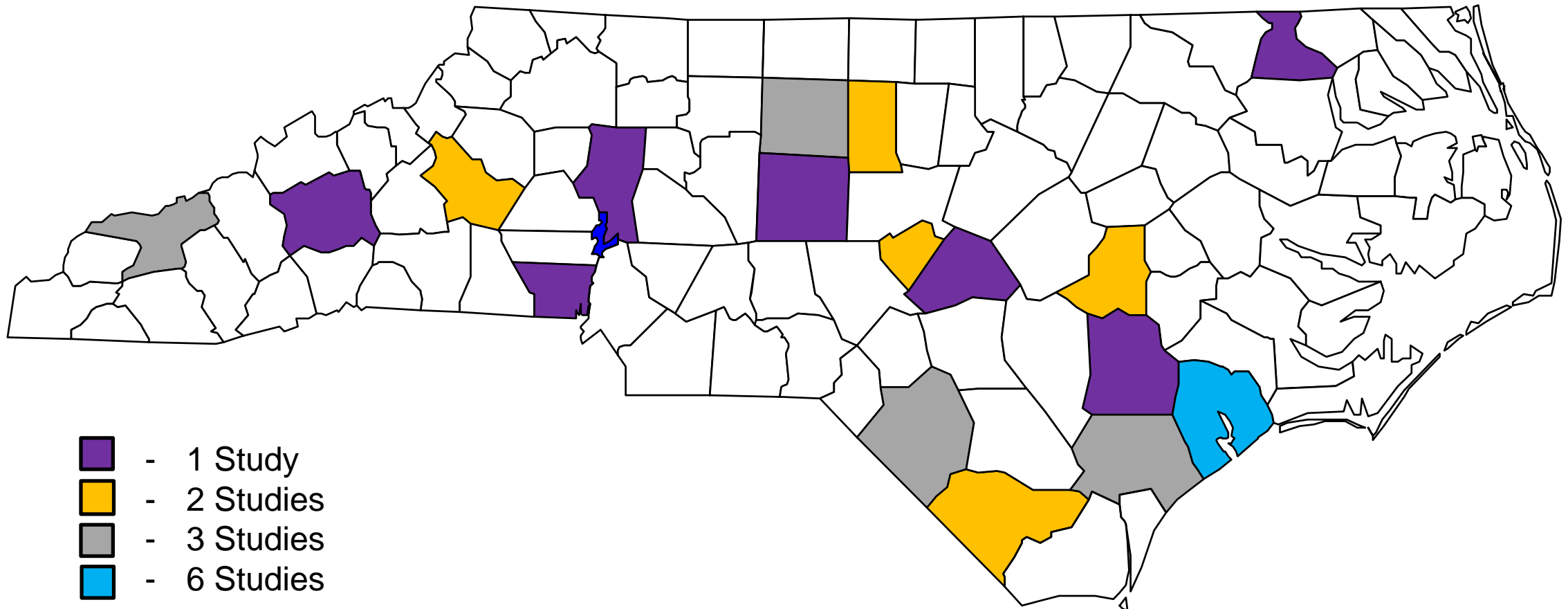
MSTA – Municipal and School Transportation Assistance

In-House Studies (completed)

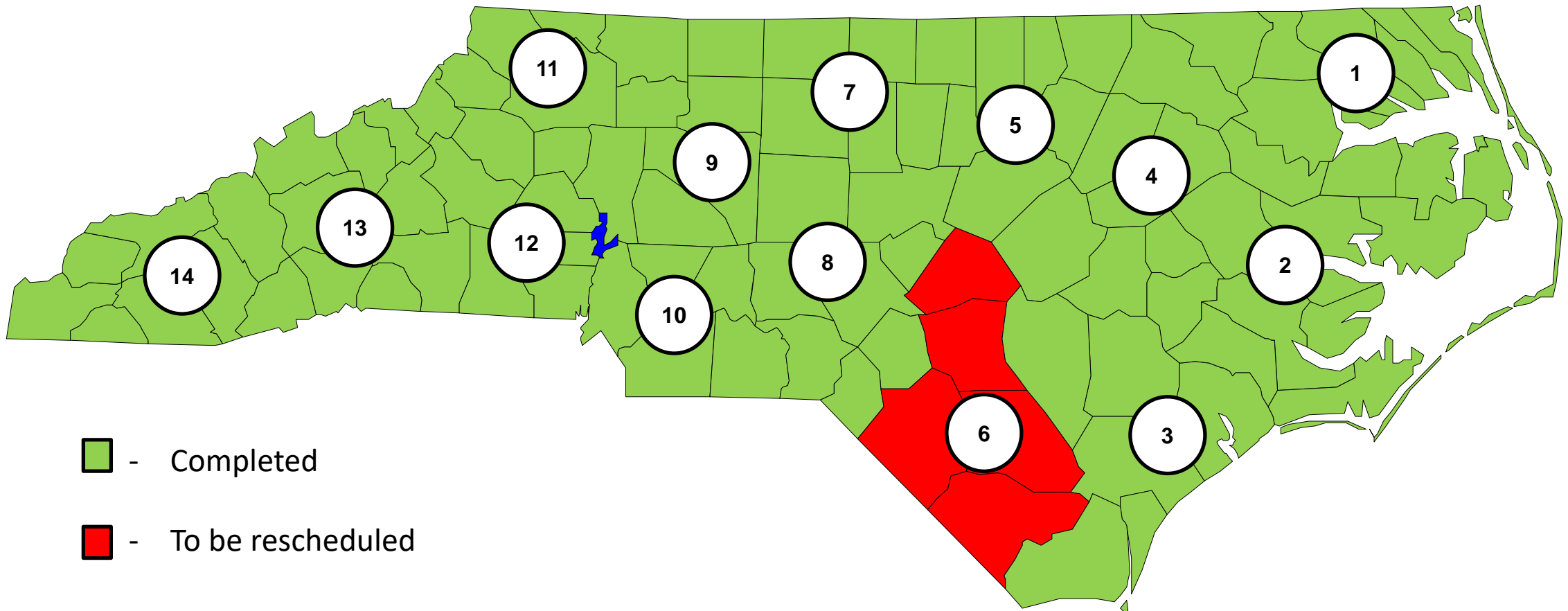


* All studies completed within 60 days of receiving all required information

In-House Studies (ongoing)



Division Educational Tour (“Road Show”)



Transportation Improvement Requirements

State Traffic Engineers Office (STEO) determines what are required reimbursable improvements.

- For cost control
- To insure schools are not used to circumvent STI

If STEO and Division staff do not agree, the Division Engineer and State Traffic Engineer will decide.

Challenges

- Many sites already have traffic needs
- Mixed developments
- Incomplete information and many changes
- New process – people are still learning
- Charter School time lines
- Turnover of persons involved (schools, DOT, PEF, etc.)

Concerns

Some concerns about how private and charter schools select contractors. They do not have the same requirements for public agencies.

- NCDOT has implemented an independent internal estimate for same work to help manage cost.
- If reimbursement request is 10% over the NCDOT estimate justification must be provided by the school.
- If PE cost is over 15% of the construction estimate justification must be provided by the school.
- So far, with a handful of reimbursements, this has not been an issue. We are also considering other items to facilitate.

What is Working Well

- Reduces school fear of massive changes and improvements
- Education of those involved (people understand better)
- Resource availability

The screenshot shows the NCDOT Business Partner Resources website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Help, and Site Map. Below this is a search bar and a menu with categories: Doing Business, Bidding & Letting, Projects, Resources, and Local Governments. The Local Governments section is expanded, showing sub-links: Bridge Reuse, Interagency Leadership, Local Projects, Planning, School Transportation (highlighted), State Airport Aid, State Street-Aid (Powell Bill), and Utilities.

Municipal School Transportation Assistance (MSTA)

MSTA performs studies that address the safety concerns with the overall pedestrian safety and traffic operations on a school campus, and how traffic affects adjacent state roadways

Connect NCDOT ► Local Governments ► School Transportation

Schools

MSTA performs studies that address the safety concerns with the overall pedestrian safety and traffic operations on a school campus, and how traffic affects adjacent state roadways. To calculate the school operations, MSTa has developed a database of specific data that is compared to similar schools across North Carolina.

Data indicates that AM traffic operations on a school campus usually operate safely and efficiently due to parent traffic arriving at a broader range of times. PM traffic operations are quite different, most often parents arrive well before the school dismissal and park or queue (back up) along the campus driveway. The PM queue often results with vehicles stopped in the roadway or along the shoulder of a major through route, which increase the chances of accidents and similar traffic related safety concerns.

Resources

- [Municipal & School Transportation Assistance Presentation](#)
- [Transportation Considerations for School Site Selection](#)
- [School Transportation Issues](#)
- [Helping a School SOAR 10_09_2013](#)

MSTA School Calculator

[School Calculator](#)

The MSTa School Traffic Calculator

Provided by:

- Municipal and School Transportation Assistance
- Transportation Mobility and Safety
- Division of Highways
- North Carolina Department of Transportation

Excel Required to Open Calculator

What is Working Well

Board of Transportation has approved policy to allow on campus transportation improvements with certain state funds. This allows more effective treatment and cost effective solutions.

More focus on transportation issues around schools

Solved the one and done issue with school developments

To Be Determined

We have not received as many reimbursement request yet

- To date less than \$5 million
- We expect that there is more than \$35 million yet to be received and this is growing each year.

Impact on small communities

- Cost reimbursement for small municipalities may overwhelm
- Have not seen this yet, but have made staff aware of the issue when reviewing schools.

To Be Determined

Working with mixed development

- Mixed projects (developer and school) outside municipalities
- Mixed large scale development in highly urban centers

Need to encourage more school bus use by students